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Post-PACE: Police and Policing in the South West Timeline

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POST-PACE: POLICE AND POLICING IN THE SOUTH WEST TIMELINE (by DR IAIN CHANNING, PLYMOUTH LAW SCHOOL)

Chief Constables of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

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| 1973-1982 | John Alderson | |
| 1982-1983 | David East | (Was D&C Deputy Chief 1979-1982) |
| 1984 | J. B. Morgan | (Acting CC) |
| 1984 - 1989 | Donald Elliot | 1984 (1 March) - 1989 |
| 1989 - 2002 | John Evans | 1989 (Jan) - 2002 |
| 2002- 2006 | Maria Wallis | 2002- July 2006 |
| 2006 - 2007 | Nigel Arnold | Acting Chief Constable July 2006-January 2007 |
| 2007-2012 | Stephen Otter | Announced departure in January 2012) |
| 2013-present | Shaun Sawyer | (also deputy since Otter's departure. delay as Government froze CC appointments due to PCC elections.) |

PACE and Devon and Cornwall Police Timeline

| Date | Developments in national policy | Significant events in Devon and Cornwall |
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| 1972 | 11 th report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee (Included recommendation to abolish right to silence at a police station) Murder of Maxwell Confait. Metropolitan Police arrest and question three suspects Colin Lattimore, (age 18 but a much lower mental age), Ronnie Leighton (aged 15), and Ahmet Salih (age 14) without presence of parent or guardian. Allegations made about police use of violence in the interviews. These were later declared to have been false by Sir Henry Fisher (Fisher, 1977, p. 8) | Many of the local events below have been sourced from the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Archive available at http://www.xdandcc.org/museum/arcd&c/annrep/index.html |
| 1977 | Maxwell Confait Inquiry. Sir Henry Fisher report published. He criticises judicial discretion to overlook breaches of the Judge's Rules and recommends Royal Commission Labour Government announces Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure which commenced in February 1978. | |
| 1979 | | John Alderson publication: Over ten pages under the headings of 'The Challenge' and 'A New Model - Beyond the Peel Perspective' John Alderson took the opportunity of the 150th anniversary of the British police service to consider the relevance of Sir Robert Peel's primary objectives of an efficient police, whilst offering ten 'aims' as a basis for discussion on the way forward. Community Policing: Unit beat policing in the 1960's had seen more emphasis on rapid response to calls from the public and was synonymous with the 'Panda' car. |

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| | | With the introduction of community policing a new livery, white paintwork with the Force coat of arms, was introduced to project a different image. |
| 1980 | <i>Maxwell Confait</i> investigation: Douglas Franklin now suspected of Confait's murder and questioned by police. He committed suicide shortly after the interviews. | |
| 1981 | <i>Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure</i> (Philips Commission) – Recommendations 'well received' by police, 'tolerably well received' by legal professions and condemned as 'too prosecution minded' by National Council for Civil Liberties, Legal Action Group and official Labour Opposition. (Zander, 1985) | <p>Police Surgeries: Police surgeries were established in St. Budeaux and North Prospect to try and address concerns that the sub-divisional headquarters at Devonport were too remote.</p> <p>Murder: Peaceful Budleigh Salterton was rocked in September when Juliet Rowe was gunned down in her home. Extensive enquiries failed to identify the offender and many years would pass before he was brought to justice.</p> <p>Murder: East Cornwall witnessed the murder of Securicor guard Victor Harvey, shot dead whilst making a delivery to the Midland Bank in Wadebridge. A nineteen-year old farmer's daughter Kay Pope, who was shot in the leg, and William Pascoe a lorry driver tackled the offender. With assistance from other members of the public the offender was overpowered and detained until the arrival of the police. Miss Pope and Mr. Pascoe were awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal. The offender was found hanged in his cell at Winchester Prison whilst awaiting trial.</p> |
| 1982 | <p>(Nov) Home Secretary William Whitelaw introduced first version of PACE Bill</p> <p>1982/3 (Winter) Debates subject to fierce criticism (include issues of right to silence/police right to see doctor's notes/priest's notes of confessional)</p> | <p>International drug trafficking: The international aspect of drug trafficking was revealed when police officers making enquiries regarding a Belgium registered vehicle and vessel at Plymouth led to the arrest of eight persons and the recovery of quantities of cannabis and amphetamine with an estimated street value of £50,000. Following those arrests information led to the discovery of an illicit amphetamine factory on the Belgium/Holland border and the seizure of drugs with a street value of £3,000,000.</p> |
| 1983 | <p>First Bill abandoned in May as Margret Thatcher calls General Election.</p> <p>(October) New Home Secretary Leon Britton unveils new Bill. NCCL and Labour Opposition campaign against the Bill.</p> | <p>National News Events: Two incidents placed North Devon on the national stage. The so-called "Beast of Exmoor" and the tragic Ifracombe fire.</p> <p>Murder: There were three murders in D Division the most notable being the investigation arising from the discovery of the body of a headless female at Haldon on 3 September. A public appeal resulted in 107 suggestions for persons fitting the description of the deceased. One of those was a woman from West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The missing head was found in the boot of a car at an address in that area and the woman's husband was arrested and charged with murder.</p> <p>Murder: In Plymouth a double murder investigation followed the discovery of the bodies of two elderly women in adjoining flats in the Mutley area. A local man was convicted of their murders.</p> <p>Dartmoor Prison: Police support was required at H.M.P Dartmoor following disruption during the Easter period.</p> |
| 1984 | (October) Final version of Bill emerges and very little changes noticeable from October 1983. | <p>Special Constabulary: Considerable Special Constabulary recruiting took place with applicants being required to pass the Police Initial Recruitment test unless exempted by academic qualifications.</p> |

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| | 1984 (March) to 1985 (March) Miners' Strike. This was responsible for uncommonly long delay in the Act coming into force. | Murder: The investigation into the double murder at Manaccan in December 1983 was brought to a conclusion when in March a local man committed suicide before a warrant for his arrest could be executed. |
| 1985 | | <p>PACE Training: Training for the introduction of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, 1984, was completed on schedule and the need to provide dedicated Custody Sergeants was the subject of detailed discussions with divisional commanders. The standard Home Office education test was applied to all applicants, regardless of educational background.</p> <p>T/Assistant Chief Constable Brian Phillips commented, "The Welfare Department has absorbed considerable pressure and, like the Personnel Department, is carefully studying the greater levels of stress-related difficulties which are becoming increasingly apparent."</p> <p>Fixed Penalties: The new computerised fixed penalty office was established in Plymouth and was completed on time and within budget, dealing with fixed penalty notices throughout the force from November.</p> <p>Protests: Violent protests against hunting were on the increase and brought this comment from Chief Superintendent Colin Moore, Commander F. "The over-reaction of protest groups such as the Animal Rights Movement has meant that we have had to shift limited resources from the streets of our towns to the countryside to ensure public order at hunt meetings."</p> |
| 1986 | (Jan 1) PACE came into force | <p>PACE: This was the year that saw the implementation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, 1984. Out went the Judges Rules; in came Custody Centres, Codes of Practice, lay visitors to Custody Centres, taped interviews and statutory Community Consultative Groups.</p> <p>Crime figures and PACE: Recorded crime rose by 6.94% on 1985 figures, and 24,215 offences or 52.6% since 1980. The detection rate fell below 40% and Detective Chief Superintendent Reay observed, "Research conducted earlier in the year showed that many other forces were experiencing a similar reduction in the offences being cleared up. The common experience by all forces which may to some extent be attributable to this deficit was the implementation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act which came into effect on 1st January, 1986."</p> <p>Interviews and PACE: In June the first tape recorded interviews were conducted as a pilot in Barnstaple and the Detective Chief Superintendent reported, "All officers with experience of conducting interviews on tape are in favour of the new procedures. The interviews are found to be more natural and are not constantly interrupted by the need to make a written record of what has been said."</p> |
| 1988 | | Child Abuse: Events in Cleveland had highlighted the need for a multi-agency approach to child abuse. A review of existing arrangements identified areas for development including the use of video to record interviews with victims. An experiment in Torbay in which, "...selected officers have undertaken all child abuse enquiries has proved valuable and has led to an improved understanding of |

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| | | individual agency roles. The extent to which such a venture is developed in the future is being assessed by the joint working party." |
| 1989 | | Chief Constable on PACE: 'The structural changes I anticipate in the coming year are designed, on the one hand, to sharpen our central functions so we can deal with the big things well and avoid any ambiguity in operations conducted at Force level; and on the other hand, to rationalise the operational developments on territorial divisions which have evolved somewhat piecemeal as evidence-gathering practices have changed in response to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.' Chief Constable John Evans |
| 1990 | | <p>Chief Constable on PACE: 'Over recent years, the predominant development in criminal law has been a greater formality in police procedures. This may have made us more professional and I have no doubt many requirements have been broadly welcomed, but it has also meant that crime is simply more difficult to detect given the constraints inherent under the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and, in particular, in the interview situation. For these reasons we have had to develop methods of policing which offer a better prospect of catching the criminal in the act. With these thoughts in mind, permanently established divisional crime squads are being formed and their efforts will be directed by a revitalised system of crime intelligence.' Chief Constable John Evans</p> <p>Mentally ill and police custody: The number of mentally ill patients discharged from hospitals continues to give us concern. Rescuing distraught patients from multi-storey car parks where they are threatening to throw themselves off and commit suicide is an almost weekly event and no longer even newsworthy. Unfortunately, many of these patients end up in police cells. There is a danger that mental illness is being treated like alcohol abuse. The accepted answers are more community care hostels, and detoxification centre. The realities of both are police cells! Lack of adequate and appropriate resources in one such case resulted in tragedy with a man dying in our custody.</p> <p>Police custody: Our ancient Torquay Custody Centre, circa 1939, is the source of many complaints from not only prisoners but police officers. All agree that its facilities are unsavoury, degrading and demeaning. Prisoners are often having to share cells and sleep on floors with inadequate and questionable hygiene facilities. The whole atmosphere is depressing and demoralising.</p> <p>Victim facilities: A pleasing highlight was the opening of the new victim interview suite at Newton Abbot known as the 'Bateman Suite' after ex-Superintendent Brian Bateman who was responsible for its design. It has facilities for interview and medical examinations of victims of child abuse and serious sexual assault. The interviews of young children are video-recorded if necessary.</p> |
| 1994 | | <p>Initiatives: Trial launch of side handled batons. January 1995 - Safer Cities launch in Plymouth.</p> <p>Murder: Sandra Parkinson Murder: The body of Sandra Parkinson was found in</p> |

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| | | <p>undergrowth beside a scenic coastal path, a full scale murder hunt was mounted to track down the brutal killer who had raped and strangled her.</p> <p>A team of 60 detectives set to work in the picturesque resort realising their worst nightmare had come true. The offender who had ambushed Sandra, was a passing stranger who had fled the area - and he could strike again.</p> <p>As detectives worked around the clock, a break in the baffling case came when a DNA match linked the murder to the rape of a 67 years old widow in Shropshire, 18 months previously. As the net closed on the killer in a blaze of national publicity, 32 years old Alan Conner was found hanged from a tree in a Cambridgeshire field. He left a note confessing to the murder, driven to suicide by the psychological pressure of the relentless media coverage.</p> <p>The Sandra Parkinson tragedy had shocked the nation, for the callous killing of a fun-loving chambermaid touched a chord with the public, enabling the Chief Constable to champion the cause for a national DNA database. Soon after the Home Secretary set up such a facility within the Forensic Science Service and introduced legislation obliging certain suspects to provide DNA samples.</p> <p>As significant as the discovery of fingerprints, detectives now had a fool-proof method of linking offenders to their crimes. Sandra did not die in vain.</p> |
| 1998/99 | | <p>Firework factory explosion: On November 17 a massive explosion ripped through a fireworks factory in east Devon, showering the nearby village of Uffculme with debris. The force of the blast hurled part of the roof over 500 yards where it landed in a field. The police cordoned off the area and evacuated people nearby while the fire fighters hosed the flames. Miraculously no-one was injured although windows were shattered within a one-mile radius.</p> <p>Murder: Police officers in Cornwall, already stretched investigating the murder of Lyn Bryant, (remains undetected as at June 2008), had to deal with three distressing deaths. Mary Heyward and her parents, both aged in their 80's, were killed at their home in St. Austell on 3 December. They had been attacked by Mary's estranged husband who was later found dead at his burning home a short distance away.</p> <p>Murder: On 16 December a businessman was shot dead and two men injured in the Newquay area. Frederick Jago was arrested shortly afterwards and charged with the shootings. He later hanged himself in prison while awaiting trial.</p> <p>Murder: Operation Farrier dubbed 'The Rolex Murder' by the press succeeded in bringing to justice Canada's most wanted man. The body of Ronald Platt was dragged up in the nets of a Brixham trawler. A Rolex watch on his wrist was the only clue to his identity. The trail led to Albert Walker who was living under Platt's identity in Essex. Walker was on the run from Canada where he was implicated in the theft of millions of dollars.</p> <p>The investigation uncovered evidence to show that Walker had killed Platt to protect his new identity. He had taken him out on his yacht and pushed the</p> |

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| | | <p>unconscious Platt over the side after weighting his body with an anchor. Walker was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.</p> <p>Drugs operation: Officers executed 90 warrants and arrested 63 people during 'Operation Restitution'. Almost £20,000 worth of stolen property was recovered and drugs with a street value of more the £66,000 were seized.</p> <p>January</p> |
| 1999 | | <p>Drugs operation: Plymouth detectives working on the biggest anti-drugs operation ever mounted in the city saw their hard work come to fruition. Operation Llano probed deep into the city's drug-dealing underworld and at its height involved 80 officers. In July 18 men and women were sentenced to more than 63 years behind bars. Their main trade was heroin.</p> <p>National news event: Thousands of people flocked to the South West in August to witness the first total Eclipse in the UK since 1927.</p> |
| 2000 | | <p>Scientific advances: A new scientific support unit opened at Middlemoor HQ. It includes forensic science laboratories, vehicle inspection unit, credit card fraud section and a pathology department.</p> <p>Scientific advances: The Fingerprint Bureau based at Police Headquarters now has access to the national databases for fingerprints and unidentified crime scene marks.</p> <p>Already the bureau has identified marks from crimes in this Force against fingerprints of those held in other forces.</p> <p>The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) has enabled provincial fingerprint bureaux to be more independent and less reliant on Scotland Yard.</p> <p>Livescan, an ink-free system for taking fingerprints, was installed into the Force's custody suites at Plymouth, Torquay, Camborne, Newquay, Exeter and Barnstaple. The system enables people to be identified within an hour of being brought into custody. Arresting officers can link into the unidentified crime scene marks database so that prisoners can be identified for other crimes, other than those for which they have been arrested, before they are released.</p> <p>Murder: A harrowing police investigation resulted in a husband being convicted for murdering his wife and four stepchildren in the isolated Cornish hamlet of Carnkie.</p> |
| 2002 | <p>(May) Labour Home Secretary David Blunkett announced fundamental review of PACE. The focus was on efficiency. This included simplify police procedures, reduce procedural or administrative burdens on police, save police resources and speed up justice. Micheal Zander described the review, which took 6 months from start to Publication as a 'superficial and shallow exercise.' (Zander, 2012: p. 5). Suggestions adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes reworked in plain English | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ways to distribute Codes to Officers and keep them up-to-date with case law • Codes should be simplified • Give police officers more discretion | |
| 2004 | (July) New Codes of Practice came into effect | |
| 2005 | Many proposals included in Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 | |
| 2007 | (March) Government issues major review of PACE. In the consultation paper entitled <i>Modernising Police Powers</i> , Minister Tony McNulty argued that the aim was 'to re-focus the investigation and evidence gathering processes on serving the needs of victims and witnesses and helping raise the efficiency and effectiveness of the police service'. | |
| 2007 | (December) PACE Review Board established | |
| 2010 | PACE Codes A, B and D re-issued to take effect on 7 March 2011. | |
| 2010 | <p>Crime and Security Act Provides new PACE rules such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of reporting requirements for Stop and Search • Rules for destruction and use of DNA and fingerprints | |
| 2011 | Police (Detention and Bail) Act Changed PACE to provide police with power to recall and detain a suspect if detention time still remaining following initial release. | |
| 2012 | (November) Police and Crime Commissioner elections. | Tony Hogg elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall. |
| 2016 | <p>(February) Police and Crime Bill was introduced to the House of Commons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reform pre-charge bail to stop people remaining on bail for lengthy periods without independent judicial scrutiny of its continued necessity • stop the detention in police cells of children and young people under 18 who are experiencing a mental health crisis (and restrict the circumstances when adults can be taken to police stations) by reforming police powers under sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 • amend PACE 1984, including to ensure that 17-year-olds who are detained in police custody are treated as children for all purposes, and to increase the use of video link technology. | |

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